Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 136125

42
ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:BCROGERS:CRJ
APPROVED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE
S/CCT:AMB. HOFFACKER
AF-J.J.BLAKE
S/S - WHLUERS
---------- 021977
O R 251609Z JUN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136125

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET
SUBJECT: TENNECO FIVE

REF: (A) ASMARA 517; (B) KHARTOUM 1504

FOR ADDIS AND ASMARA:

1. DISCUSSED REF A WITH WILSON OF TENNECO. WILSON STATES MORGHANI IS "UNTRUSTWORTHY CROOK" WHO HAS LEARNED THAT WEDERFORT ABOUT TO BE RELEASED AND IS TRYING TO GET A PIECE OF THE ACTION. HE BELIEVES THAT PROVIDING REQUESTED LETTER NOT ONLY WILL INVOLVE UNSAVORY MORGHANI UNNECESSARILY IN CASE, BUT MOST LIKELY WILL FURTHER COMPLICATE AND CONFUSE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS WILL DELAY RELEASE EVEN LONGER. IN ADDITION, MORGHANI WOULD BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO CLAIM CREDIT FOR RELEASE OF ONE OR MORE TENNECO HOSTAGES WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL OCCUR SHORTLY.

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PAGE 02 STATE 136125

2. UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES OVERRIDING REASON OR BOGAN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

ADVISES TO CONTRARY, MORGHANI SHOULD BE TOLD TENNECO DOUBTS THAT HIS GROUP CONTROLS CAPTIVES AND WILL NOT DEAL WITH HIM. FYI: FREEMAN IS OUT OF COUNTRY UNTIL JULY 1 AND COULD POSSIBLY OVERRULE WILSON UPON RETURN. END FYI.

3. REF B CAUSES CONSIDERABLE CONCERN. IF IT HAS NOT AL-

READY DONE SO, EMBASSY SHOULD REMIND IEG OF ITS PROMISE TO REFRAIN FROM ACTIONS WHICH COULD ENDANGER CAPTIVES' RELEASE. NOT CERTAIN WHAT AREA ZEIN IS TALKING ABOUT, BUT IT MAY BE AREA ALONG SUDANDESE BORDER OR BETWEEN SUDA-NESE BORDER AND ASMARA.

FOR KHARTOUM:

4. IF, IN SPITE OF POSSIBLE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY TERRORISTS' TRIAL AND AFTERMATH, KHALIFA CHANNEL REMAINS OPEN, REQUEST YOU PASS CONTENTS REF A TO HIM FOR ZEIN, SUGGESTING THAT THE LONGER ZEIN'S PEOPLE DELAY IN CAP-TIVES' RELEASE, THE GREATER THE POSSIBILITY THAT CHARAC-TERS SUCH AS MORGHANI WILL ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT SITUATION FOR PERSONAL GAIN TO DETRIMENT OF ELF CAUSE. ZEIN HAS NOW INDICATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT WEDERFORT WILL BE RE-LEASED SHORTLY. TIME HAS COME TO PRODUCE. SISCO

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EO Systematic Review
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